



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

of great mental activity, an affectionate and industrious youth, a young man of splendid character and splendid achievement, for Robert Fulton died at fifty.

In America the story of the *Clermont* is familiar to young and old. While the name of the famous inventor is a household word, it is greatly to be feared that the principal events of his beautiful life are not so familiar as they deserve to be.

From this little volume the reader will learn that Fulton did not first design a boat and then build one. Patiently he fashioned models. With them he experimented and on the results based his calculations. On the double foundation of character and industry he toiled on through the troublous years of the Revolution in France, experimenting on the Seine, at one time on his steamboat, at another on his torpedo. Now endeavoring to win the favor of Washington, now laboring to interest Napoleon, and again appealing to Pitt. Cautious commendation he gained from each, but for ultimate success he himself deserves all the praise. This estimate does not overlook the friendship of Franklin, of West, of Barlow, of Livingston and others, all of which is concisely told in this valuable biography.

The Life of John Hay. By William Roscoe Thayer. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1915. Two volumes.

The checkered career of John Hay—Secretary to President Lincoln, diplomatic *attaché* in three European capitals, journalist, editor, author, poet, ambassador to England, and Secretary of State—is one to provoke interest not only as a personal biography, but as an insight into the inner political history of the last half-century.

The man of letters is prominent in John Hay from the first. A racy freshness of phrase, not always as disciplined as it might be, runs through everything he ever wrote. And with it a raciness of judgment on things military, political, and religious, which suffers from the same lack of disciplining and restraint. Perhaps his impressionistic nature was his greatest virtue and most conspicuous defect—invaluable as a literary asset, it betrayed him into partisan views that did not always have about them that *largeur d'esprit* expected of a man to whom experience came in

such unstinted measure and variety as they did to him; and not only experiences, but posts of honor and of power. His judgments of men, movements, and events, were very often accompanied by so fine a feeling of scorn that one sees the observer more than the observed. He shared views concerning Gen. McClellan that lost none of their bitterness in the perspective of the years. His confidently expressed judgment that Lee's left could have been doubled up after Gettysburg, and driven down on Williamsport, or that an attack in three columns would have succeeded, is another example of his impressionism, and of the severe judgments based upon it.

His "Castilian Days," written for the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1870, and revised for republication in 1890, contained in their first form "much that might be advantageously modified or omitted," as Hay himself said in the preface to the second edition (I, 365). The reviewer was, therefore, surprised to find the editor of the Life of John Hay, going out of his way deliberately to indicate the strictures passed on the Catholic Church, in "Castilian Days." He justifies them on the grounds that they were "unsectarian"—the utterances of an "ethical naturalist." As if ethical naturalism was not in itself the worst of religious prejudices, affording its devotee the occasion to criticize all forms of religion that had more than *his* modicum of belief to express. It is a naïve defense, out of place in volumes such as these. The question of "Castilian Days" was agitated at the end of the Presidential campaign in 1904. As Col. Hay himself put it (I, 367), the extracts showed "that twenty-five years ago I had whacked with the freedom and irresponsibility of youth the Spanish Catholic Church from Torquemada to Padre Claret." In view of this utterance, the author's apology is doubly without warrant. The reviewer must confess to a painful surprise also in reading Hay's creed as an historian (II, 30). Speaking of Gen. McClellan he says: "It is of the utmost importance that we should *seem* fair to him, while we are destroying him." One does not recover from a phrase like that, and the impression that it leaves is damaging.

The great personality of Lincoln stands out in glorious relief from all his chattering *entourage*, and this is one of the fine effects of the first volume. In fact, the scenes and personages change

so quickly on almost every page of these two volumes that they are a delight to read, notwithstanding the fact that John Hay and his biographer sometimes obtrude themselves too prominently and obscure the vision. The tangled months of diplomacy which so wore down the health of Col. Hay—never very robust—during his occupancy of the office of Secretary of State, are well told. There is not an uninteresting page in either volume, and much to be learned in every chapter. The index is the fullest and most helpful one we have seen in a long time. Col. Hay, to use his own words, “had his chance at happiness and gained nearly all the great prizes.”

Personal Experiences Among Our North American Indians.

By W. Thornton Parker, M.D. Northampton, Mass., 1913.
8vo, 232 pages.

Dr. Parker is a competent authority on the life and customs of the Indians who roamed over our western plains a generation ago. In 1867 he served as hospital steward in a company of U. S. cavalry detailed to escort a large caravan destined to an army post in New Mexico. In those days the country west of the Mississippi was still unsettled, the habitat of wild buffalo and of still wilder Indians, made hostile through the steady encroachments of the white man. For nearly twenty years he served in those uncultivated regions as surgeon among U. S. troops and afterwards on Indian reservations. From long and intimate experience with several Indian tribes, especially the Chippewas, many of whose braves became his devoted friends, he acquired a thorough familiarity with their character, customs and mode of life in times both of peace and of war.

His reminiscences, embodied in the volume under review, cover a wider field than that implied in the title; for while the bulk of the work is given to his interesting and valuable study of the Indians who formerly disputed with the pale faces the possession of the western plains, he has not a little to say about the mode of life and the deeds of valor of the fearless men, who in the service of the United States Government kept up communications with the far west, and were constantly engaged in putting down marauding expeditions of hostile Indian tribes.